



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Fire Department

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 20, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Deputy Fire Chief Appointment (HSC19005(b)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Helen Klumpp (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3508
SUBMITTED BY:	David Cunliffe Chief, Hamilton Fire Department Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the By-law to Appoint a Deputy Fire Chief, attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC19005(b), which has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be passed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Mark Hodge was selected to fill the vacancy due to the retirement of Deputy Fire Chief John Verbeek. The By-law attached as Appendix "A" to this Report formally appoints Mark Hodge as Deputy Fire Chief pursuant to By-law No. 19-034 'To Establish, Maintain and Operate Hamilton Fire Department', effective February 24, 2020.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A

Staffing: Recruitment to fill the vacancy of Assistant Deputy Fire Chief will commence immediately.

Legal: The draft by-law attached as Appendix "A" to this Report has been prepared in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

All municipalities in Ontario are legislated by the Province's *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* (FPPA), 1997 to establish a program in the municipality to include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention and provide fire protection services. Typically, this requirement is accomplished through the establishment of a fire department. Where a fire department is established, the Council of the municipality must appoint a Fire Chief for the fire department who is ultimately responsible to Council for the delivery of fire protection services.

The ability for the Fire Chief to delegate authority to others is outlined in section 6 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*. In the absence of the Fire Chief, a Deputy Fire Chief is designated to act in his/her capacity and is delegated the authorities of the Fire Chief. City of Hamilton By-law No. 19-034 states that a Deputy Fire Chief may act in the capacity of the Fire Chief and that Council appoints the Deputy Fire Chiefs.

For the City of Hamilton, the fire co-ordinator assigned by the Fire Marshal through the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan is the Fire Chief and the alternate fire co-ordinators are the Deputy Fire Chiefs. As such, in appointing the Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chiefs, the By-law recognizes that these appointees will be the fire co-ordinator, and alternate fire co-ordinators for the City of Hamilton. They will be authorized to carry out the duties of the fire-coordinator as outlined in the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*.

Further, they shall fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the fire co-ordinator as outlined in the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan including to:

- Develop, review, and maintain the mutual aid plan;
- Submit an annually updated mutual aid plan to the Office of the Fire Marshal;
- Coordinate and monitor mutual aid plan activations;
- Consider requests and recommend the deployment of provincial and regional assets; and
- Attend annual fire co-ordinator meetings.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

By-law No. 19-034 'To Establish, Maintain and Operate Hamilton Fire Department' states that the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chiefs are to be appointed by Council.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Legal Services was consulted in the preparation of the draft By-law.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Adoption of the recommendations will ensure compliance with the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* as administered by the Office of the Fire Marshall.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report HSC19005(b): Draft By-law to Appoint a Deputy Fire Chief

Authority: Item ,
Report
CM:
Ward: City Wide

Bill No.

CITY OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO.

To Appoint a Deputy Fire Chief

WHEREAS John Verbeek, Deputy Fire Chief, retired effective February 22,2020;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to appoint another person to this vacant Deputy Fire Chief position pursuant to By-law No. 19-034 'To Establish, Maintain and Operate Hamilton Fire Department';

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. Mark Hodge is appointed as Deputy Fire Chief until such time as that appointment is terminated or a successor is appointed.
2. This By-law and this appointment come into force as of February 24, 2020.

PASSED this _____ , _____

F. Eisenberger
Mayor

A. Holland
City Clerk